The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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LANTERN-MAKING WORKSHOPS BEGIN NOV. 3 IN PREPARATION FOR HOLIDAY CIRCLEFEST

CMA Offers Friday Evening of Performance Art and Baroque Music as Kick-Off to Sunday Event

CLEVELAND — Ceremonial lighting displays during the holiday season have long been a tradition for people around the world. On **Sunday, Dec. 5**, the Cleveland Museum of Art will host the sixth annual **Winter Lights Lantern Festival**, the culminating event of **Holiday CircleFest** — a festival of seasonal music, workshops, gift shopping, food, and drinks hosted by the University Circle community. The climax of the lantern festival will be a glowing procession of handmade lanterns, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the museum's north doors and proceeding outside to Wade Oval Green, where it will encircle an artist-created "Environment of Lights." Leading the nighttime parade will be 12 Cleveland artists with their own large-scale lanterns, while dancers weave through the procession.

In preparation, the museum will offer lantern-making workshops Nov. 3 through 21 on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Lantern creations will be inspired by the arts of Central and South America and Asia. Pierced tin lanterns influenced by Mexican tin art will be taught in the Wednesday and Thursday workshops. The Friday workshop sessions will teach participants how to create Asian-inspired designs, using split bamboo and tissue paper. In the Sunday sessions, participants will learn to make Shinto-style lanterns made from Nepalese paper and local red twig dogwood.

The workshop fee is $15 for individuals; $40 per family. Fee includes materials to make one lantern per person and the option of attending an unlimited number of workshops. (Most lanterns will take more than one session to complete.) Additional lanterns may be made for $10 a piece. To register, call (216) 421-7340, ext. 483. Children under 15 must register and attend with an adult.

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Nativity Tours Added to CircleFest Day Event

New this year for Holiday CircleFest will be nativity tours at 2:30 and 4 p.m., when visitors can view images of Christ's nativity from the early Christian to the Baroque period. The tour will focus on the portrayal of the nativity through the centuries, exploring similarities and differences in the depictions over time. A Neapolitan crèche, dating from 1780-1830, will be on display outside the Still Life Café's doors.

Elegant and unique gifts will be available for purchase in the Museum Store, including vibrant Dutch floral glass ornaments inspired by the exhibition **Still-Life Paintings from the Netherlands, 1550-1720**, as well as Northeast Ohio's largest selection of fine arts calendars and cards, art books and posters, sculpture replicas, and exclusive lines of fine art jewelry. Handmade lanterns created by museum members, volunteers, and area high school students will also be available for purchase. The Museum Café will be open, serving holiday refreshments.

Performances Precede CircleFest

A breathtaking evening of performance art on **Friday, Dec. 3** will feature dancers and illuminated installations on Wade Oval Green. Six artists will create an environment of lights, including allusions to architectural forms and botanical groupings, lit by a variety of light sources. Participating artists are Michael Costello, Joan Damankos, Alison Egan, Mark Jenks, Mark Sugiuchi, and Robin VanLear, artistic director of Parade the Circle and CMA community arts coordinator. Professional and student dancers from the Cleveland area, decked with lights themselves and threading in and around the installations, will present an improvisational dance program, led by coordinating choreographer Colleen Clark. Dance performances are at 6:30, 7:30, and 8:40 p.m.

Also on Friday evening, complementing all these winter festivities and the major **Still-Life Paintings** exhibition, the Baroque ensemble *Apollo's Fire*, led by artistic director Jeanette Sorrell, will present a program of Dutch and Flemish chamber music in the Indoor Garden Court at 7 p.m.

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Institutions presenting **Holiday CircleFest** will be open free of charge from 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday in addition to their normal hours. They include the Church of the Covenant, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, the Cleveland Institute of Art, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Play House, Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church, the Health Museum of Cleveland, Judson Manor, Rainbow Children's Museum & TRW Early Learning Center, and the Western Reserve Historical Society. For more information about other CircleFest events, visit the University Circle Incorporated website at www.universitycircle.org. To receive a **Holiday CircleFest** brochure, call UCI at (216) 707-5020. For additional information about the CMA and its events, visit www.clemusart.com.

Holiday CircleFest is co-sponsored by Cleveland Public Power and Key Bank. Promotional support is courtesy of WKSU 89.7, WNCX 98.5, WEWS-TV 5, *Cleveland Magazine,* the *Plain Dealer,* the *Cleveland Free Times* and RTA.

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